

1490.2.26

AN
EPISTLE

(MORAL AND PHILOSOPHICAL)

FROM AN
OFFICER AT OTAHEITE.

TO LADY GRASSNOR.

WITH

NOTES, CRITICAL AND HISTORICAL.

BY THE AUTHOR OF THE RAPE OF POMONA.

—Lege sub hac, Pomona fuit,

Grataque tenet tua munera dextra.

OVID.

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MDCCLXXIV.

Gr* s**n*r, Lady
K

E R R A T A.

Page 14, Line 10, for Hymen's read Hymens

18,	5,	immerge	emerge
22,	2,	Brunswick	Brünswics
30,	7,	For	Far
ib.	ib.	Briton's	Britain's
13,	2,	trim	pert



MORAL AND PHILOSOPHICAL
EPISTLE
FROM OTAHETE.

CAN I forget the beauteous Emma's charms,
The soft Elysium of her circling arms;
The wanton jirk of those elastic hips,
Which made the *ermin'd* sages lick their lips,
When the false Countess (a) painted all she saw,
And the press'd couch became the sport of law?

My Emma, come, O grace these smiling plains,
Where love unbounded fires the raptur'd swains;

(a) Countess D'—ff. Vide Trial.

B

Where

Where thrilling lovers feel, but to be blest,
And extacy entrances them to rest. 10

Here (a) kifs meets kifs 'ere from the lips it part,
And love's warm tide flows mutual from the heart.

Lo here, *whence*, frozen Chastity retires,
Love finds an altar for his fiercest fires.

The throbbing virgin loses ev'ry fear,
Venus alone absolves her frailties here.

At ten years old, she feels th'inspiring itch,
And the glad mother straight, *tattows* (b) her breech;

(a) Eloisa to Abelard.

(b) " Mr. Banks saw the operation of *tattowing* performed upon the backside of a girl about thirteen years old. The instrument used upon this occasion had thirty teeth, and every stroke, of which at least a hundred were made in a minute, drew an ichor or serum a little tinged with blood. Mr. Banks staid in a neighbouring house an hour, and the operation was not over when he went away; yet it was performed but upon one side, the other having been done some time before; and the arches upon the loins, in which they most pride themselves, and which gave more pain than all the rest, were still to be done." *Hawkes. Voyag.* vol. ii. p. 190.

Curve

Curve above curve (*a*), the splendid arches rise,
 Like the bright bow that gilds the sunny skies : 20
 Doubtless, design'd on the same gracious plan,
 A *Sign of Peace*, a *Covenant* with man !
 The valves of Venus, pout with tempting glee,
 Like the sweet rose-buds bursting from the tree.
 Then joy illumines *her* with all-cheering beams,
 Unerring instinct prompts her golden dreams ;
 Experienc'd dames, then led the smiling maid
 To the sweet umbrage of the plantain's shade.

(*a*) " The part on which these ornaments are lavished with the greatest profusion, is the breech: this, in both sexes, is covered with a deep black; above which, arches are drawn one over another as high as the short ribs. They are often a quarter of an inch broad, and the edges are not strait lines, but indented. These arches are their pride, and are shewn both by men and women with a mixture of ostentation and pleasure; whether as an ornament, or a proof of their fortitude and resolution in bearing pain, we could not determine." *Hawkes. Voyag.* vol. ii. p. 190.

~~Her~~
 Her

Her bed, like Eve's (a), with choicest flowers blooms,
 And hov'ring Cupids shed divine perfumes, 30
 With tuckt-up shifts, the fairest damsels sing,
 The magic wonders of *Hans Carvel's* (b) ring (c);
 Their brilliant bums in rapid (d) circles seen,
 With dazzling lustre shine, *before the Queen;*

(a) So said he, and forbore nor glance nor toy
 Of amorous intent; well understood
 Of Eve, whose eye darted contagious fire:
 Her hand he seiz'd, and to a shady bank
 He led her nothing loth; flowers were the couch,
 Pansies and violets, and asphodel,
 And hyacinth, earth's softest, freshest lap. *Paradise Lost.*

(b) Pricr.

(c) "Friday, May 12, was distinguished by a visit from some Ladies. Having laid some pieces of cloth on the ground, the foremost of the women, who appeared to be the principal, and who was called Oorattoa, stepped upon them, and taking up her garments all around her to the waist, turned about three times with great composure and deliberation: when this was done, she dropped the veil, and stepping off the cloth, three pieces more were laid, and she repeated the ceremony. The three last were laid, and the ceremony was repeated the third time, in the same manner." *Hawkesworth*, vol. ii. p. 125.

"(d) This singular and surprising velocity of their posteriors is esteemed a mark of the highest respect and loyalty, and is solely appropriated to the Sovereign. This is the *royal salute* at Otaheite, which we distinguish by firing twenty-one guns." *Extract of a private letter from* ~~Dr. Johnson~~ *Y. V. Johnson*

So

So *bearded* comets fiery courses run,
 And their tails (a) blaze, as they approach the Sun.
 The virgin's eyes in light luxuriant swim,
 Her mantling blood glows thro' each brightening limb.
 A vigorous youth (d) soon clasps the beauteous prize,
 Lusty and brown (almost your G--ny's size). 40
 Whilst o'er the rites, the Queen herself presides,
 And in mild accents, Otheothea guides.

(a) "Comets before they have been considerably heated in the neighbourhood of the Sun, scarcely project a tail to make them remarkable: but after they have been well heated in their *Perihelion*, then they send forth a large shining fiery tail." *Keil's Astronomy*.

(b) "A young man, near six feet high, performed the rites of Venus with a little girl about eleven or twelve years of age, before several of our people, and a great number of the natives, without the least sense of its being indecent or improper, but, as appeared, in perfect conformity to the custom of the place. Among the spectators were several women of superior rank, particularly Oberea, who may properly be said to have assisted at the ceremony; for they gave instructions to the girl how to perform her part, which, young as she was, she did not seem much to stand in need of." *Hawkes. Voyag. vol. ii, p. 128.*

C

" Now

" Now gently heave, in wanton folds entwine,
 " To aid his bliss, let every nerve combine;
 " See his lips tremble and his eyeballs roll;
 " Suck the last breath, and catch his flying soul."
 She hears; obeys, in speechless transports drown'd,
 Whilst sympathetic murmurs float around,
Meetee Attira (a)! murmurs every lass,
 And thousands fall, extended on the grass. 50

O blest employment of a Sovereign's time,
 How seldom seen in Europe's barbarous clime!
 Let *Mouschin Pouschin*, boast lewd Kath'rine's skill,
 Let her profess the royal art to kill;
 Like Clytemnestra give her vengeance scope,
 Or teach her Russian bears to climb a rope.
 Combin'd with tyrants of congenial soul,
 Her savage ruffians rob the wretched *Pole*:

(a) " Come kifs me!" Vide *Hawkefworth*.

Ev'n

Ev'n gen'rous (a) Dantzig feels the galling chain,
 Tho' Commerce droop, and Freedom weep in vain. 60

From felon Goths, O Muse, my thoughts convey,
 Where southern isles a nobler race display;
 O'er flow'ry isles where sport the nymphs and swains,
 No dire Virago desolates the plains,
 There Oberea's gentle virtues shine,
 She joys to plant the human face divine;
 To ope the paths that lead to nature's bliss,
 And rule her subjects by a melting kiss:
 The honest Queen lusts not for fame or riches,
 But like a Queen recovers (b) stolen breeches. 70

(a) Let the reader consult those spirited productions in the case of liberty and humanity;—*The Letters from Poland.*

(b) Mr. Banks having such a safe-guard, resigned himself to sleep with all imaginable tranquillity: but awaking about eleven o'clock, and wanting to get up, he searched for his clothes where he had seen them deposited by Oberea when he lay down to sleep, and soon perceived that they were missing. He immediately awakened Oberea, who starting up, and hearing his

O spread thy empire, Love, from shore to shore,
 Till wedlock cease, and cuckoldom's no more.
 Let sniv'ling wives and termagants be chaste,
 And rail at Ladies of a G-----r's taste;
 For scandal, let them genial pleasures slight,
 Because in scandal they find more delight:
 As chatt'ring magpies when their tongues are slit,
 Seem always prone to shew their ill-bred wit;
 Of rogue and bitch incessantly they rail,
 And the glib tongue moves swifter than the tail. 8a
 Ye fland'rous dames, who mischief spread and make,
 Go, learn a lesson from the venom'd snake;
 Tho' in its tongue a subtle poison's found,
 Oil from its tail will antidote the wound.

his complaint, ordered lights, and prepared in great haste to recover what
 he had lost: Tootahai himself slept in the next canoe, and being soon
 alarmed, he came to them and set out with Oberea in search of the
 thief: Mr. Banks was not in a condition to go with them, for of his
 apparel scarce any thing was left him, not even his breeches."

Hawke's Voyag. vol. iii. 133.

Let

Let this false maxim henceforth be forgot,

(a) That female virtue's center'd in a spot,

Fix'd on an isthmus in a slippery state,

A being darkly seen and rudely great,

(b) Doubly exposed :—in such a *fit* how can

The breach be kept against the assaults of man?

So, on the verge of joining counties stands,

A debtor's house, consign'd to bailiffs hands,

In vain from writs and ruin he retreats,

When front, and rear, the sheriffs force his gates.

Perhaps, my Emma, this strange story fights,

Such public acts of Love's mysterious rites

(a) Neque foemina, amissa pudicitia aliud abnuerit. Tacitus.

(b) ——— More ferarum

Quadrupedumque, magis ritu plerumque putantur

Concepere uxores, quia sic loca sumere possunt

Pectoribus positis, sublati semina lumbis. Lucretius, lib. iv.

D

You

You disbelieve ; but here no shame impress,
 Heaves with alarming throbs the female breast ;
 Naked and smiling every nymph we see,
 Like Eve unapron'd, 'ere she robb'd the tree.
 Immodest words are spoke without offence,
 And want of decency shews innocence.
 A problem hence (a) Philosophers advance,
 Whether shame springs from Nature or from chance.
 The contest lasts ; kept up by human pride ;
 Where Sages differ, how can I decide ?
 Else should the Muse with nice precision speak,
 Why transient blushes crimson o'er the cheek.

(a) This incident is not mentioned as an object of idle curiosity, but as it deserves consideration in determining a question which has been long debated in philosophy ; Whether the shame attending certain actions, which are allowed on all sides to be in themselves innocent, is implanted in Nature, or superinduced by custom ? If it has its origin in custom, it will, perhaps, be found difficult to trace that custom, however general, to its source ; if in instinct, it will be equally difficult to discover from what cause it is subdued, or at least, over-ruled among the people, in whose manners not the least trace of it is to be found." Vide *Hawkesworth's Voyage*, vol. ii. p. 128.

O yield-

Of yielding maids; why shakes the tender frame,
 Why sweet confusion fill their souls with shame, 110
 At certain acts; Is it great Nature's voice,
 Or is it custom?—dubious is the choice?
 No; modest instinct proves *its* source divine,
 And bows our hearts at beauty's sacred shrine!
 Lest sensual passion should the mind entice,
 It starts, and shrinks at the first touch of vice,
 An emanation of celestial fire,
 Which purifies the heart, and checks desire.
 O'er my Eliza beams attractive grace,
 When mantling blushes veil her lovely face: 120
 Even *distant hints*, the sweet suffusion raise,
 As the hand's warmth makes phosphorus to blaze;
 Tho' transc'd in rapture, modestly she'll glow,
 (a) As cold increases in dissolving snow.

(a) Snow, at the instant of melting, gives the most intense cold.

Tho' lewdness and unbridled lust combine,
 To counteract the Deity's design;
 Yet by this means, philosophers may trace,
 A truth divine, which Sophists can't efface,
 With purest morals, chaf'n'd manners rose,
 (Clear as the fountain springs, the riv'let flows) 130
 In ev'ry clime are markt, in ev'ry age,
 In the bard's song, and in th' historic page.
 With love refin'd, and innocence they reign,
 And Modesty's still seen in Virtue's train;
 Yet babbling fools into the notion fall,
 If Vice destroy it, "there was none at all."
 As well might Jockies vouch it for a truth,
 When they inspect an *aged* horse's tooth;
 And to confirm their judgment, loudly swear,
 "No mark remains—*Ergo*, No mark *was* there!" 140
 Custom indeed corrupts the human heart,
 Where cowards bribe, and bravoos (a) act their part;

(a) *Vide*, Sharp's Letters from Italy.

Where

Where gallant youths, by fell assassins bleed,
 And no remorse attends the guilty deed.
 Hence might trim Doctors in quaint prose or rhyme,
 Attempt to prove, "That stabbing is no crime."
 Yawn, philosophic Saws, around our isle,
 And *paradox*, to make Barette smile.

How shall the Muse describe in flowing rhimes,
 The dance lascivious (a) of these sportive climes? 150

(a) "In other countries, the girls and unmarried women are supposed to be wholly ignorant of what others upon some occasions may appear to know; and their conduct and conversation are consequently restrained within narrower bounds, and kept at a more remote distance from whatever relates to a connection with the other sex: but here, it is just contrary. Among other diversions, there is a dance, called *Timorodee*, which is performed by young girls, whenever eight or ten of them can be collected together, consisting of motions and gestures beyond imagination wanton, in the practice of which they are brought up from their earliest childhood, accompanied by words, which, if it were possible, would more implicitly convey the same ideas. In these dances they keep time with an exactness which is scarcely excelled by the best performers on the stages of Europe. But the practice

which is to the amusement of the natives.

Which the young girls from infancy are taught,
 With gestures lewd beyond the reach of thought,
 What wanton motions vibrate ev'ry limb,
 Their sparkling eyes in moisten'd languor swim.
 The *Timoredees*' joyous songs conspire,
 To spread the blaze of Love's contagious fire.
 Impetuous virgins to these lists advance,
 Till practice realise the *typic dance*.
 Had (a) Diderot these bounding maidens known,
 Enrich'd by Hymen's from this (b) *torrid zone*:— 160

which is allowed to the virgin, is prohibited to the woman from the moment that she has put these hopeful lessons in practice, and realized the symbols of the dance." *Hawkes. Voyag.* vol. ii. p. 206.

(a) See his advertisement in the *Morning Post*, *Sur l'Art de Transplanter les Puceleges, Francois, Italiens, ou Espagnols*.—If we reason from analogy, *Otabeite* would soon rival France and Spain in this commodity; as the *Timerodee* dance, is more joyous, expressive and animating than either the *Fandango*, or the *Cotillion*.—Lady Wortley Montague, (who was reckoned no indifferent judge of such things) describes the sympathetic effect of a similar dance, in a very pretty manner. "The dance, says her Ladyship,

(b) In respect to the amorous constitution of the natives.

To British dames, he'd precious spoils impart,
 And here display the wonders of his art:
 The magic gauze, would ev'ry charm improve,
 Thrill ev'ry nerve with extasies of love.
 Rapturous ideas at each touch supply,
 And plant *fine feelings*, which these climes deny.
 As the sage (a) Priestly's philosophic care,
 Infipid water 'pregnates with *fixed air*,
 Mercurial virtue thro' the fluid flings,
 To rival Spaw, and the fam'd Pyrmont springs.
 What gold can purchase such celestial charms,
 What bribes can tempt such beauty to our arms,
 ship, was very different from what I had seen before; nothing could be more
 artful, or more proper to raise *certain ideas*. The tunes so soft; the motions
 so languishing, accompanied with pauses and dying eyes! half falling back,
 and then recovering themselves in so artful a manner, that I am very positive,
 the coldest and most rigid prude upon earth, could not have looked upon
 them without thinking of *something not to be spoken of*. Letter xxxiii.

(a) See his Observations on different Kinds of Air, and his Method of
 impregnating Water, with the qualities of Pyrmont Water, by an infusion of
fixed Air.

You

You fain would know? Hear then the wondrous tale,
 Let this great truth o'er prejudice prevail;
 (a) With nails we traffic for the blooming maid,
 And the ship's planks supply the dangerous trade,
 At last the fair ones, see with strange surprize,
 Some nails produced of more than common size;
 The happy females with this treasure grac'd,
 Display their triumph, and our coin's debas'd. 180

(a) While our people were on shore, several young women were permitted to cross the river, who, though they were not averse to the granting of personal favours, knew the value of them too well not to stipulate for a consideration: the price, indeed, was not great, yet it was such as our men were not always able to pay, and under this temptation, they stole nails, and other iron from the ship. The nails that we brought for traffic were not always in their reach, and therefore they drew several out of different parts of the vessel, particularly those that fastened the cleats to the ship's side. This was productive of a double mischief, damage to the ship, and a considerable rise at market: when Mr. Banks and the Chaplain offered, as usual, small nails, the natives refused to take them, and produced *large spikes*, intimating that they expected such nails as these.

Hawkesworth, vol. i.

In

In vain we sue, the Nymphs comply no more,
 "Give us large nails, re-echoes from the shore."
 Thus, when our Senate (I'll their crimes unfold)
 Call'd to the mint, our light tho' sterling gold.
 Indignant patriots, saw new guineas rise,
 Which Jews could neither sweat nor circumcise:
 For thro' the land an *Inquisition* reigns,
 The *faith* of coins is try'd by *saving* grains;
 Like Justice arm'd, ev'n harlots pois'd the scales,
 Nor sell their favours, if the standard fails. 190
 Impatient, pale, the tingling cully stands,
 "And holds his breeches up with both his hands;"
 The balance trembles, and the wary maid
 Still keeps her legs close, 'till his guinea's weigh'd.
 This race (*a*) benign, who know not abject fear,
 With vig'rous arm discharge the pointed spear;

(a) Their deportment is liberal, and their behavior to strangers and to each other affable and courteous. In their dispositions also, they seemed to

With dex'trous aim, the barbed arrow wing,
 Or send the stone impetuous from the sling.
 Bold in the lists, and active in the chace,
 Their well turn'd limbs strength's sinewy pow'rs brace:
 They ride the billows, from the (a) deep immerge,
 Breathe the proud wave, nor dread the foaming surge.

be brave, open, and candid, without either suspicion or treachery, cruelty or revenge; so that we placed the same confidence in them as in our best friends, many of us, particularly Mr. Banks, sleeping frequently in their houses in the woods, without a companion, and consequently wholly in their power. Vide *Hawkefworth*, vol. ii. p. 188.

(a) In our way we came to one of the few places, where access to the island is not guarded by a reef, and, consequently, a high surf breaks upon the shore; a more dreadful one indeed I had seldom seen; it was impossible for any European boat to have lived in it; and if the best swimmer in Europe had, by any accident, been exposed to its fury, I am confident that he would not have been able to preserve himself from drowning, especially as the shore was covered with pebbles and large stones; yet, in the midst of these breakers, were ten or twelve Indians swimming for their amusement: whenever a surf broke near them, they dived under it, and to all appearance, with infinite facility, rose again on the other side.

Hawkef. Voyag. vol. ii. 135.

In

In their (a) canoes, our floating forts defy,
Nor from the thunder of our cannon fly.

(a) As an attack was now begun, in which our arms only could render us superior to the multitude that assailed us, especially as great part of the ship's company was in a sick and feeble condition, I ordered the guard to fire; two of the quarter-deck guns which I had loaded with small shot, were also fired nearly at the same time, and the Indians appeared to be thrown into some confusion: in a few minutes, however, they renewed the attack, and all our people that were able to come upon deck, having by this time got to their quarters, I ordered them to fire the great guns, and to play some of them constantly at a place on shore, where a great number of canoes were still taking in men, and pushing off towards the ship with the utmost expedition. When the great guns began to fire, there were not less than three hundred canoes about the ship, having on board, at least, two thousand men; many thousands were also upon the shore, and more canoes coming from every quarter: the firing, however, soon drove away the canoes that were about the ship, and put a stop to the coming off of others. As soon as I saw some of them retreating, and the rest quiet, I ordered the firing to cease, hoping that they were sufficiently convinced of our superiority, not to renew the contest. In this, however, I was unhappily mistaken: a great number of the canoes that had been dispersed, soon drew together again, and lay some time on their paddles, looking at the ship from the distance of about a quarter of a mile, and then suddenly hoisting white streamers, pulled towards the ship's stern, and began again to throw stones, with great force and dexterity, by the help of slings, from a considerable distance: each of these stones weighed about two pounds, and many of them wounded the people

Beauty and Valour here have fix'd their throne,
 —Shall Europe's spoilers call this isle their own?
 May Heav'n and Britain shield the gen'rous race,
 Nor Tyranny their manly souls debase.
 No eastern plund'ers spread Oppressions gloom,
 Nor (a) check the labours of the chearful loom; 210

people on board, who would have suffered much more, if an awning had not been spread over the whole deck to keep out the sun, and the hammocks placed in the nettings. At the same time several canoes well manned, were making towards the ship's bow, having probably taken notice that no shot had been fired from this part: I therefore ordered some guns forward, to be well pointed and fired at these canoes; at the same time running out two guns abaft, and pointing them well at the canoes that were making the attack." *Hawkes. Voyage*, vol. i. p. 125.

(a) In proportion, as an unfortunate people become less able to bear the established taxation, the modes of collecting it becomes more oppressive. Seven entire battalions were added to our military establishment to enforce the collections. The new force became an enormous expence to the company, and the unnatural pressure on the people raised the price of provision. The manufacturers to be able to purchase *bread*, shewed an inclination to raise the price of *their goods*. The prices must be *kept down*, but this could not be done without *violence*. Provisions became dearer, and the demand for goods encreased. *Dow.*

From

From (b) Leadenhall, waft *famine*, blood and strife,
 And rob the produce of the "tree of life (c)."
 O Liberty! Britannia's guardian pow'r,
 Thy influence shed at this auspicious hour:
 Tho' gath'ring clouds, the thunder storm presage,
Draw down the light'ning, ere it burst in rage.
 Preserve this land, midst servile nations, free,
 ("This precious stone set in the silver sea.")
 A land where patriots felt thy purest flame,
 Which boasts a Ruffel's, Sidney's, Hampden's name
 Illustrious chiefs, who thy own sword could wield,
 And wave thy banner in War's bloody field;

(b) The civil wars to which a violent desire of creating Nabobs gave rise, were attended with tragical events. The country was depopulated by every species of distress. In the space of *six* years, half the great cities of an opulent kingdom were rendered desolate; the most fertile fields in the world lay waste: and *five millions* of harmless and industrious people were either expelled or destroyed. Want of foresight became more fatal than innate barbarism; and men found themselves wading through blood and ruin, when their object was only spoil. *Dow's Inquiry into the State of Bengal.*

(c) The bread-tree.

Strike kings, and priests, and servile pebbs with awe,
 —To them we owe, our Brunswick and Nassau!
 Thy voice divine, did Milton's self inspire,
 He tun'd thy precepts to his heav'nly lyre.
 Thy spirit breathe, thro' all the human race,
 To nerve, exalt, and animate the soul;
 As Newton's aether, which pervades all space,
 Attracts, sublimes, and vivifies the whole. 230
 O'er Albion's realms in majesty preside,
 Nor let th' Atlantic wave, thy sons divide;
 Unite *them*, Goddess, in *One* glorious cause,
 Who share thy rights, religion, and thy laws,
 In peace preserve Britannia's sacred rest,
 Restore her children to a mother's breast:—
 No foes insidious then shall spread alarms,
 Britons, united, *dare* the world to arms;
 And yet may guard thy heav'n-descended fire,
 Till Nature's works, and Nature's self expire. 240
 —Will

—Will Emma pardon the digressive Muse,
Who checks her wand' rings, and her theme pursues?

You ask what food springs from the grateful soil,
To fit the natives for their am'rous toil?
For bev'rage pure, the limpid streams suffice (a),
And cocoa-nut, nectareous juice supplies :

(a) For drink, they have in general nothing but water, or the juice of the cocoa-nut; the art of producing liquors that intoxicate, by fermentation, being happily unknown among them; neither have they any narcotic which they chew, as the natives of some other countries do opium, beetle-root, and tobacco. Some of them drank freely of our liquors, and in a few instances became very drunk; but the persons to whom this happened were so far from desiring to repeat the debauch, that they would never touch any of our liquors afterwards. We were however informed, that they became drunk by drinking a juice that is expressed from the leaves of a plant which they call *Ava Ava*. This plant was not in season when we were there, so that we saw no instances of its effects; and as they considered drunkenness as a disgrace, they probably would have concealed from us any instances which might have happened during our stay. This vice is almost peculiar to the Chiefs, and considerable persons, who vie with each other in drinking the greatest number of draughts, each draught being about a pint. They keep this intoxicating juice with great care from their women.

Hawkefworth's Voyages, vol. ii. p. 199.

On

On verdant leaves (*b*) they spread the fav'ry (*c*) dish,
 And suck (*d*) prolific particles of fish ;
 So oily Fryars,—shut in gloomy cloysters,
 Pamper their lust, with pregnant cod and oysters. 250
 Strengthen'd by this, the fasting nuns refresh,
 And in their sisters, plant the “ thorn of flesh.”

Alas, what human bliss is long compleat,
 For ever changing, man's precarious state !

(*b*) Tables they have none ; but their apparatus for eating is set out with great neatness, though the articles are too simple and too few to allow any thing for show : and they commonly eat alone ; but when a stranger happens to visit them, he sometimes makes a second in their mess.

Hawkesworth's Voyages, vol. ii. p. 200.

(*c*) They generally feed on fish, and their sauce is salt-water. However, they feast occasionally on swine and dogs. *Hawkesworth's, passim.*

(*d*) Peut-etre meme, que les parties huileuses du poisson sont plus propre a fournir cette matiere qui sert a la generation. Ce seroit une des causes de ce nombre infini de peuple qui est au Japen et a la Chine, ou l'en ne vit presque que de poisson. Si cela etoit, de certaines regles monastiques, qui obligent de vivre de poisson, seroient contraires a l'esprit du legislateur meme.

L'Esprit des Lois, l. xxiii.

Our

Our rivals once exulted in this isle,
 Where Venus revels, and the Graces smile;
 In tinsel'd splendor led the festive dance,
 And taught kind girls the cotillions of France;
 To drums and flutes (a) in sportive cadence move,
 And give a loose to all the joys of love, 260

(a) Their only musical instruments are flutes and drums; the flutes are made of a hollow bamboo about a foot long, and, as has been observed before, have only two stops, and consequently but four notes, out of which they seem hitherto to have formed but one tune; to these stops they apply the fore finger of the left hand and the middle finger of the right.

The drum is made of a hollow block of wood, of a cylindrical form, solid at one end, and covered at the other with shark's skin: these they beat not with sticks, but their hands; and they know how to tune two drums of different notes into concord. They have also an expedient to bring the flutes that play together into unison, which is to roll up a leaf so as to slip over the end of the shortest, like our sliding tubes for telescopes, which they

H

move

Till poison'd raptures propagate dire pains,
 And dart pollution thro' the tingling veins:
 The unwary Nymphs to spread the pest conspire,
 Which shoots as rapid, as electric fire.
 Thro' breathing flutes, no more soft music flows,
 The snuffling minstrel (a) weeps his perish'd nose :

move up or down till the purpose is answered, of which they seem to judge by their ear with great nicety.

To these instruments they sing; and, as I have observed before, their songs are often extempore: they call every two verses or couplet a song, *Pebay*; they are generally, though not always in rhyme; and when pronounced by the natives, we could discover that they were metre.

Hawkesworth's Voyages, vol. ii. p. 204.

(a) Tootahah gave us a specimen of the music of this country; four persons performed upon flutes which had only two stops, and therefore could not sound more than four notes, by half tones: they were sounded like our German flutes, except that the performer, instead of applying it to his mouth, blew into it with one nostril, while he stopped the other with his thumb: to these instruments

Whilst muffled drums a mournful dirge rebound,

And thro' the island—waft a fearful sound.

Preventive Hanay, (a) haste, O haste away,

Thy grand specific, to my friends convey : 270

With this eulogium be thy virtue crown'd,

“ A Frenchman gave (b), a Briton heal'd the wound.”

instruments four other persons sung, and kept very good time ; but only one tune was played during the whole concert.

• (a) See Public Advertiser.

(b) Their commerce with the inhabitants of Europe has, however, already entailed upon them that dreadful curse which avenged the inhumanities committed by the Spaniards in America, the venereal disease. As it is certain that no European vessel besides our own, except the Dolphin, and the two that were under the command of Mons. Bougainville, ever visited this island, it must have been brought either by one of them or by us. That it was not brought by the Dolphin, Captain Wallis has demonstrated in the account of her voyage, [vol. I. p. 489, 490.] and nothing is more certain than that when we arrived it had made most dreadful ravages in the island. One of our people contracted it within five days after we went on shore, and by the enquiries among the natives, which this occasioned, we learnt, when

we

Still must I sing the lewd promiscuous joy,
Which boundless reigns amidst their *Arreoy* (d).

we came to understand a little of their language, that it had been brought by the vessels which had been there about fifteen months before us, and had lain on the east side of the island. They distinguished it by a name of the same import with *rottenness*, but of a more extensive signification, and described, in the most pathetic terms, the sufferings of the first victims to its rage, and told us that it caused the hair and nails to fall off, and the flesh to rot from the bones; that it spread a universal terror and consternation among them.

Hawkesworth's Voyages, vol. ii. p. 232.

(d) "These societies are distinguished by the name of *Arreoy*; and the members have meetings, at which no other is present, where the men amuse themselves by wrestling, and the women, notwithstanding their occasional connection with different men, dance the Timorodee in all its latitude, as an incitement to desires which it is said are frequently gratified upon the spot. This, however, is comparatively nothing. If any of the women happen to be with child, which in this manner of life happens less frequently than if they were to cohabit only with one man, the poor infant is smothered the moment it is born, that it may be no incumbrance to the father, nor interrupt the mother in the pleasures of her diabolical prostitution. It sometimes, indeed happens, that the passion which prompts a woman to enter into this society,

Can the fond mother act Medea's part?

Can she expose the darling of her heart?

society, is surmounted when she becomes a mother, by that instinctive affection which Nature has given to all creatures for the preservation of their offspring; but even in this case, she is not permitted to spare the life of her infant, except she can find a man who will patronise it as his child: if this can be done, the murder is prevented; but both the man and woman, being deemed by this act to have appropriated each other, are ejected from the community, and forfeit all claim to the privileges and pleasures of Arreoy for the future; the woman from that time being distinguished by the term *Whannownow*, "bearer of children," which is here a term of reproach; though none can be more honourable in the estimation of wisdom and humanity, of right, and every passion that distinguishes the man from the brute.

It is not fit that a practice so horrid and so strange should be imputed to human beings upon slight evidence, but I have such as abundantly justifies me in the account I have given. The people themselves are so far from concealing their connection with such a society as a disgrace, that they boast of it as a privilege; and both myself and Mr. Banks, when particular persons have been pointed out to us as members of the Arreoy, have questioned them about it, and received the account that has been here given from their own lips. They have acknowledged, that they had long been of this ac-

Without a tear, her infant, cherub doom,
 And stab the smiling offspring of her womb?
 O dire effect of passions unrestrain'd,
 O dire effect of Nature's laws profan'd. 280
 From such black scenes, the Muse indignant turns,
 Where lust deprav'd, the mad'ning female burns.
 Far different scenes in Briton's isle I see,
 Where shines conspicuous the fam'd *Coterie*.
 Their social orgies, genial love admit,
 And brisk Champaign improves their sparkling wit.
 Low at their feet elected members stand,
 And population teems around the land;
 As thorn-trees by inoculation bear
 The juicy apple, and the luscious pear: 290

cursed society, that they belonged to it at that time, and that several of their
 children had been put to death.

Hawkefworth's Voyages, vol. ii. p. 207.

So

So the stale Countess, by a *strange* embrace,
Yields to her Lord an unressembling race;
Joyous he sees the "*olive branches*" spread,
And wreaths the nuptial honours round his head.

F I N I S.

So the late Countess by a happy chance
Yields to her Lord an ever lasting grace;
Joyous he sees the "wonder" spread
And wistly she amidst him found his head.

